



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Hard Red Wheat Shows Significant Boost in Acreage Barley Acreage Continues to Decrease

OLYMPIA, Wash. July 11, 2006 -- The 2006 Wheat and Barley Variety survey results have been released by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Washington Field Office. Eltan is the top common white winter wheat variety for the sixth consecutive year, with 448,900 acres. Eltan is followed by Madsen, Clearfield (ORCF101), and Tubbs. White club winter wheat acreage increased 9,300 acres from the previous year, with Bruehl being the leading variety. Hard red winter wheat planted acres have increased 81 percent over last year's planted crop, with 202,000 acres planted.

The hard red class has the highest spring wheat acreage, at 294,500 acres planted. This is a 78 percent increase from last year. Hank is the leading variety with 61,100 acres planted. Westbred 926 is the second largest variety, with 46,100 acres and Pronto is planted on 33,400 acres. Common white spring wheat class is the second largest, with 132,000 acres planted. Alpowa is the leading variety, at 72,700 acres. Nick and Louise are the second and third most popular variety of common white spring wheat. Blanca Grande is the leading hard white spring wheat, with 24,500 planted acres. In 2006, Washington is the eighth largest state in planted acres of wheat.

Barley acreage is down to 205,000 planted acres. Baronesse is the top variety, at 142,000 planted acres. Baronesse accounts for 69 percent of all barley and 73 percent of feed barley. Feed barley is the dominant class, accounting for 95 percent of all barley planted acreage. The top five feed barley varieties are Baronesse, Bob, Radiant, Gallatin, and Belford.

Malting barley acreage plummeted to 10,000 acres planted. AC Metcalfe is the most popular variety with 3,700 acres planted. AC Metcalfe has the fourth biggest overall acres planted for barley. The three most popular varieties for malting barley are AC Metcalfe, Legacy, and Harrington.

To access the entire releases, including the complete narrative and tables, point to:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington/Publications/Small_Grains/barvar06.pdf

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington/Publications/Small_Grains/whtvar06.pdf